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Altdeutsche textbibliothek herausgegeben von H. PAUL.

No. 1. Die Gedichte Walthers von der Vogelweide herausgegeben von H. Paul.

The Heliand is promised by Behaghel, Otfrid by Kögel, Reinhard Fuchs by Reissenberger, Reineke Vos by Prien, etc. In contrast with the two series of reprints just mentioned, this library is to be regularly edited with introduction, notes and vocabulary. It might be called a scientific school edition, such as we have not had hitherto; for Cotta's Schulausgaben, by Bechstein, can hardly be called scientific; much less the Pfeiffer-Bartsch "Classiker des Mittelalters," a sort of Middle-high German without tears for the general reader, not fit to be used at gymnasium or university. Paul's position as to Walther is well known from his publications in his own and Braune's Beiträge.

The introduction is a masterpiece of conciseness and sobriety of views. It is divided into (1) Walther's Leben; (2) Walther's Stellung in der Geschichte der deutschen Lyrik; (3) Die Ueberlieferung und kritische Behandlung der Gedichte. The sifting of Walther-literature and editions on p. 24 must be particularly welcome to the student. But we do object most emphatically to the "wörterbuch," which is very incomplete. Either let us have a complete one or none at all. Such vocabularies as we get, as a rule, with readers and texts are a delusion and a snare.

H. C. G. B.

OTIS, Elementary German. New York, 1881.

It is natural to compare this little book with another just issued, Sheldon's Short German Grammar (Boston, 1880). Sheldon's book is best adapted to the acquisition of a reading knowledge, Otis's to the acquisition of a practical speaking knowledge. The pronunciation was therefore an important subject for Mr. Otis, and this is the weakest and the really slighted part of the work. In § 1 the name of *z* is given as "zet" in English equivalents. If *c* is given as "tsä," should not *z* be "tset"? § 6 mentions the difficulty of acquiring "the new sounds, which we do not have in English, viz. *ö, ü*, and the guttural *g (ch)*." We have never yet seen a grammar that laid stress upon the acquisition of the German sounds which do not *seem* "new," but really *are* so, of those which are very much like English sounds, and are confounded with them. Thousands learn the three sounds mentioned by Mr. Otis who never learn, partly because they are not taught, German *w, r*, short *ö* in *Stock, sch, e* in *Gabe*, and others—*B, d, g*, when doubled, are said to be "hard." If "hard" means "surd," does not Mr. Otis distinguish between *ecke* and *egge, gewitter* and *widder, ebbe* and *kappe*? There is no such statement in Prof. Whitney's "unequalled German grammar and dictionary, for which all students and teachers of German owe the author a great debt of gratitude." § 26: "Initial *sp* and *st* are pronounced in Prussia as *schp* and *scht*." The author's geography must be at fault, or he is a "Muss-Preusse." Are not Hannover, Schleswig-Holstein and Westphalia Prussian provinces? The more distinct and forcible utterance of the German as compared with the English is said to be owing to the greater prominence of the vowel sounds in German—a very shallow observation, of a piece with the quick utterance of the German or Frenchman, observed by the tourist abroad. § 14 warns the